

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present remark is in response to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2004, in which claims 1 through 14 were rejected. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and, are believed to render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

No claims are amended. No claims are deleted and no claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1 through 14 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103(a)

1. Claims 1-3 and 5-13

With respect to Paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,184, "Tsai") in view of Lu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,550,993, "Lu"). Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Tsai and Lu teaches or suggests the technical feature of riveting between stamped nodes of a bottom plate and first apertures of a support plate as claimed in claims 1 and 7, such that no apertures will be formed on the bottom plate, and therefore as any liquid is accidentally poured into the

keyboard, a motherboard underneath the keyboard shall not be damaged (see description in page 6, lines 24-28 of the present specification).

More specifically, as claimed in claims 1 and 7, the claimed waterproof keyboard of the present invention is provided with a support plate having first apertures and a bottom plate having a plurality of stamped nodes. The bottom plate is placed underneath the support plate. The stamped nodes of the bottom plate go through the first apertures of the support plate respectively, and thus the bottom plate and the support plate are riveted.

With regard to the cited reference, Tsai, which does not explicitly disclose a bottom plate having a plurality of stamped nodes wherein the bottom plate is laced underneath a support plate, the stamped nodes of the bottom plate go through first apertures of the support plate respectively, such that the bottom plate and support plate are riveted.

It is apparent that Tsai fails to teach or suggest the technical feature of the riveting between stamped nodes of a bottom plate and first apertures of a support plate as claimed in claims 1 and 7 of the present invention.

As to the cited reference, Lu, see its Fig. 2 and description of col. 2, lines 21-36, 63-67 and col. 3, lines 1-3. Lu discloses a keyboard including a lower plate 1 and an upper plate 3. The lower plate 1 has a set of inverse L-shaped first latch sections 11, 11'. The upper 3 has a set of rectangular-shaped second apertures 31, 31' corresponding to the first latch sections 11, 11'. The first latch sections 11, 11' go

through the second apertures 31, 31', respectively, and hook on one side of the second apertures 31, 31'.

Comparing the claimed waterproof keyboard as claimed in claims 1 and 7 of the present invention and the keyboard of Lu, it is apparent that Lu fails to teach or suggest the technical feature of riveting between stamped nodes of a bottom plate and first apertures of a support plate as claimed in claims 1 and 7 of the present invention. Lu teaches the inverse L-shaped first latch sections 11, 11' disposed on the bottom plate 1 and the rectangular-shaped second apertures 31, 31' disposed on the upper plate 3. The L-shaped first latch sections 11, 11' go through the rectangular-shaped second apertures 31, 31', and hook on the one side of the rectangular-shaped second apertures. For the claimed waterproof keyboard as claimed in claims 1 and 7 of the present invention, the stamped nodes of the bottom plate rivet with the first apertures of the support plate. The shape of the stamped nodes needs to be conformed to the inner profile of the first apertures so that the stamped nodes can rivet with the first apertures. To the contrary, the shape of the inverse L-shaped first latches 11, 11' does not need to conform to the inner shape of the rectangular-shaped second apertures 31, 31'. In addition the riveting between the stamped nodes and the first apertures of the claimed waterproof keyboard is a kind of un-separable connecting relation. The connecting between the inverse L-shaped first latch sections 11, 11' and the rectangular-shaped second apertures 31, 31' is manually separable. In other words, the support plate and bottom plate are riveted together for the claimed waterproof keyboard of the present invention. The upper plate and bottom plate of Lu are separably connected together.

The technical means of connecting the support plate and bottom plate of the claimed waterproof keyboard is different from that of the upper plate and bottom plate of Lu.

In view of the foregoing, Tsai and Lu fail to teach or suggest the technical feature of the riveting between the support plate and bottom plate as claimed in claims 1 and 7 of the present invention, whether taken in combination or individually. Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are patentably distinguished over Tsai and Lu.

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend upon claim 1 directly or indirectly, each of which include all the limitations of claim 1. Claims 8-13 depend upon claim 7 directly or indirectly, each of which includes all limitations of claim 7. Hence, claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8-13 are patentably distinguished over Tsai and Lu.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 4 and 14

With respect to Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai in view of Lu as applied to claims 1-3 and 5-13 above, and further in view of Demeo (US Patent 5,397,867).

Claim 4 depends upon claim 1 and hence includes all the limitations of claim 1. Claim 14 depends upon claim 7 and hence includes all the limitations of claim 7.

The Examiner observes that Demeo teaches an illuminated keyboard that prints an opaque material (col. 4, lines 43-51) over a circuit board (22). Thus, none of Tsai, Lu and Demeo teaches or suggests the technical feature of the riveting between the

support plate and bottom plate as claimed in claims 4 and 14 of the present invention. Claims 4 and 14 are patentably distinguished over these three cited references.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-14 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicant also submits that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully requests that claims 1-14 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing Attorney Docket No. 025697-00028.

Respectfully submitted,



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